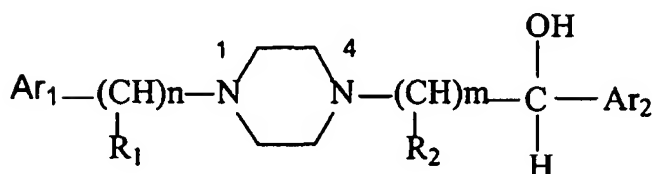


Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

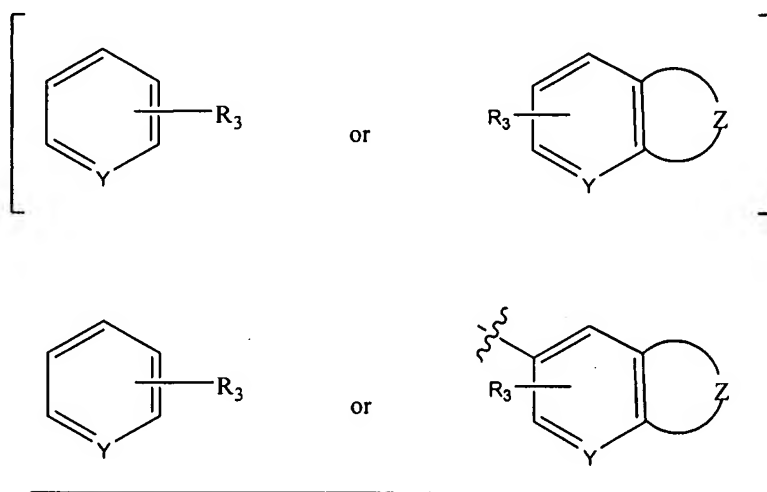
Listing of Claims:

- 1-9. Cancelled.
10. (Amended) A compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein Ar_1 and Ar_2 independently represent:



R₁, R₂ and R₃ each represents hydrogen, a C₁-C₃ alkyl group, a C₅ or C₆ cycloalkyl group, a phenyl, substituted phenyl, ~~hydroxyl~~, methoxy, ethoxy, amino, substituted amino, halogen, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, nitril or acetonitrile group;

Y represents C, N, or O;

Z represents a five or six-member ring containing at least one of C, S, N or O;

n represents 0, 1, 2 or 3;

m represents 1, 2 or 3;

in the form of a free base or a salt thereof.

11. (Amended) A compound according to Claim [1] 10, wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloride, hydrobromide, sulfate, trifluoroacetate and methanesulfonate.

12. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 11, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydrobromide.

13. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 11, wherein the ~~salts~~ salt comprises about 0.5-3 molecules of hydrate water.

14. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 10, wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ represents independently of each other hydrogen, a C₁-C₃ alkyl, ~~hydroxyl~~, methoxy, ethoxy, amino, substituted amino, halogen, or nitril group.

15. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 10, in the form of a racemic mixture.

16. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 10, in the form of a pure enantiomer, or a mixture of enantiomers in a non-racemic ratio.

17. (Amended) The compound of Claim [1] 10, selected from the group consisting of:

- IV-1 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-(phenylpropane-2-yl-3-ol) piperazine,
- IV-2 N¹-(4-chlorobenzyl)-N⁴-(phenylpropane-2-yl-3-ol) piperazine,
- IV-3 N¹-(1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-(phenylpropane-2-yl-3-ol) piperazine,
- IV-4 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[2-(4-chlorophenyl) ethyl-2-ol] piperazine,
- IV-5 N¹-(3-pyridylmethyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-6 N¹-(4-fluorobenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-7 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[2-(4-nitrophenyl) ethyl-2-ol] piperazine,
- IV-8 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[(1, 2-diphenyl) ethyl-2-ol] piperazine,

- IV-9 N¹-(4-nitrobenzyl)-N⁴-[2-(4-acetamidophenyl) ethyl-2-ol]
piperazine,
- IV-10 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[2-(4-acetamidophenyl) ethyl-2-ol]
piperazine,
- IV-11 N¹-(4-fluorobenzyl)-N⁴-[2-(4-chlorophenyl) ethyl-2-ol]
piperazine,
- IV-12 N¹-[1-(4-nitrophenyl) ethyl]-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-13 N¹-(3-methoxybenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-14 N¹-(2-nitro-5-methoxybenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-15 N¹-[1-(4-nitrophenyl) ethyl]-N⁴-[2-(4-methylphenyl)
ethyl-2-ol] piperazine,
- IV-16 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[2-(5-chloro-6-methoxy-2-naphthyl)ethyl-
2-ol] piperazine,
- IV-17 N¹-(3-chlorophenyl)-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-
naphthalen-2-yl)-propane-2-yl-1-ol] piperazine,
- IV-18 N¹-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol)-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-
naphthalen-2-yl)-propane-2-yl-1-ol] piperazine,
- IV-19 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-naphthalen-2-yl)-
propane-2-yl-1-ol] piperazine,
- IV-20 N¹-(4-nitrobenzyl)-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-
naphthalen-2-yl)-propane-2-yl-1-ol] piperazine,
- IV-21 N¹-(4-aminobenzyl)-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-
naphthalen-2-yl)-propane-2-yl-1-ol] piperazine,
- IV-22 N¹-(3,4,5-trimethoxybenzyl)-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-
naphthalen-2-yl)-propane-2-yl-1-ol] piperazine,
- IV-23 N¹-(4-methoxybenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-24 N¹-(4-methoxybenzyl)-N⁴-(S-2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-25 N¹-(4-methoxybenzyl)-N⁴-(R-2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-26 N¹-(4-nitrobenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-27 N¹-(4-nitrobenzyl)-N⁴-(S-2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,

- IV-28 N¹-(4-nitrobenzyl)-N⁴-(R-2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-29 N¹-(1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-30 N¹-(R-1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-(R-2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-31 N¹-(R-1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-(S-2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-32 N¹-(S-1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-(S-2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-33 N¹-(S-1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-(R-2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-34 N¹-(S-1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-
naphthalen-2-yl)-propane-2-yl-1-ol] piperazine,
- IV-35 N¹-(R-1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-
naphthalen-2-yl)-propane-2-yl-1-ol] piperazine,
- IV-36 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-37 N¹-(4-chlorobenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-38 N¹-(4-chlorobenzyl)-N⁴-[2-(4-chlorophenyl) ethyl-2-ol]
piperazine,
- IV-39 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl) ethyl-2-ol]
piperazine,
- IV-40 N¹, N⁴-di (2-phenylethyl-2-ol)-piperazine,
- IV-41 N¹-(4-aminobenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-42 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[(2-naphthyl) ethyl-2-ol] piperazine,
- IV-43 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[(3-phenyl) propyl-3-ol] piperazine,
- IV-44 N¹-(2, 4-dimethoxybenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,
- IV-45 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-(S-2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-46 N¹-benzyl-N⁴-(R-2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-47 N¹-(1-phenylpropyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-48 N¹-(4-fluorobenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol) piperazine,
- IV-49 N¹-(3,4-methylenedioxybenzyl)-N⁴-(2-phenylethyl-2-ol)
piperazine,

- IV-50 N¹-(1-phenethyl)-N⁴-[2-(4-methylphenyl) ethyl-2-ol]
piperazine,
IV-51 N¹-(S-1-phenylethyl)-N⁴-[2-(4-methylphenyl) ethyl-2-ol]
piperazine, and
IV-52 N¹-(R-1-phenethyl)-N⁴-[2-(4-methylphenyl) ethyl-2-ol]
piperazine.

18. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 16, which is N¹-benzyl-N⁴-[1-(5-chloro-6-methoxyl-naphthalen-2-yl)-propane-2-yl-1-ol]piperazine.

19. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 10, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for treating depression, the method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 19.